GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4830
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2001
ECONOMIC REFORMS
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to extend economic reforms to agriculture to speedily remedy the situation of burgeoning food grain stocks and falling market prices of agriculture products, leading to distress sales and lower off take from the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction; and

(c) the extent to which the situation has eased, as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) to (c): The Government is implementing Price Support Scheme under which largescale procurement of food grains has been done. The Government has taken measures toincrease storage capacity, promote exports and allow free movement to facilitate disposal of stocks. The Government has constituted a High Level Committee to formulate a longterm Grain Policy for the country and the report is expected by end of May, 2001. Moreover, the budget proposals for 2001-02 point to significant reforms, as well as an enlarged role of State Governments, in procurement and distribution of food grains for PDS/Distribution System.